

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 9 January 2019

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 17th January, 2019 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.55pm. All members are welcome to join the Chairman for prayers should they wish to do.

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Public Open Forum	
4.	Chairman's announcement and receipt of petitions	1 - 2
5.	Notices of motion:	
5.1.	From County Councillor D. Batrouni That this Council is dismayed and disappointed that the Tory administration has failed to deliver an "evidence based proposition" for the creation of a Local Housing Company by September 2018. That this Council asks for an explanation from the administration as to why this has not happened and seek reassurances such a proposition comes to Council as soon as possible.	
5.2.	From County Councillor D. Batrouni That this Council notes evidence from some Chepstow primary schools of the negative impact the introduction of a charge for the childcare element of free school breakfasts has had on admissions; regrets its negative effect on social justice in the county; and asks the Tory administration to urgently review its regressive policy.	
5.3.	From County Councillor P. Fox	

This Council reaffirms its support for the proposed M4 Relief Road, recognising how fundamental it will be in unlocking the economic future of South Wales following the welcome decision to remove the Severn Bridge tolls.

The Council is extremely disappointed that progress towards a positive decision has stalled and calls on the Welsh Government to demonstrate its unequivocal support to the communities and businesses of South Wales by delivering this key piece of infrastructure.

To these ends the Council asks the Leader to write to the First Minister expressing its views.

6. Members questions:

6.1. From County Councillor D. Batrouni to County Councillor P. Murphy

How many staff were suspended in 2018 and what was the average length of suspension?

6.2. From County Councillor B. Strong to County Councillor R. John

Would the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People explain the impact of proposed changes to school catchment areas on families in Usk?

7. Reports of the Head of Policy and Governance:

7.1. DIARY OF MEETINGS 2019/2020

3 - 18

7.2. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL

19 - 30

8. Reports of the Chief Officer, Enterprise:

8.1. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2019/20

31 - 34

8.2. PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF THE FORMER MOD RAILWAY LINE, CRICK TO CAERWENT

35 - 48

9. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 20th December 2018

49 - 54

10. To note the County Council Action List

55 - 60

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

P. Clarke
D. Batrouni
D. Blakebrough
M. Powell
V. Smith
D. Dovey
A. Easson
R. Edwards
D. Evans
P.A. Fox
R.J.W. Greenland
L. Guppy
R. Harris
J. Higginson
G. Howard
S. Howarth
D. Jones
P. Jones
S. Jones
S.B. Jones
P. Jordan
P. Murphy
B. Strong
F. Taylor
A. Watts
A. Webb
K. Williams
J.Becker
L.Brown
A.Davies
L.Dymock
M.Feakins
M.Groucutt
R.John
L.Jones
M.Lane
P.Pavia
J.Pratt
R.Roden
T.Thomas
J.Treharne
J.Watkins
S. Woodhouse

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 16th – 21st December

Sunday 16 th December 7 – 9 p.m.	Christmas Evening & Carols Mansion House, Swansea
Tuesday 18 th December 7 p.m.	King Henry VIII School – Annual Christmas Carol Concert St Mary's Priory Church, Abergavenny
Wednesday 19th December 11.30 a.m.	<i>Monmouthshire County Council Carol Service</i> <i>County Hall, Usk</i>
Thursday 20 th December 7 p.m.	Evening of Music for Christmas Caldicot School, Mill Lane, Caldicot
Friday 21 st December 9 a.m.	Assembly and Presentation King Henry VIII School, Abergavenny
Friday 21 st December 1 p.m.	Annual Awards Ceremony for Post 16 students Caldicot School, Mill Lane, Caldicot

This page is intentionally left blank

SUBJECT:	DIARY OF MEETINGS FOR 2019/20
MEETING:	County Council
DATE:	17th January 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A

1. PURPOSE:

To approve the draft diary of meetings for 2019/2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the diary of meetings for 2019/2020, as attached, be approved.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Each Committee has reviewed the timing of their meetings and the diary has been drawn up to reflect each Committee's preferences.
- 3.2 Some Committees set their own dates during the year eg SACRE, Appointment of LEA Governors Committee, PSB selects, Corporate Parenting Panel and these will be added to the diary in due course.
- 3.3 The diary includes, for information only, dates of meetings for political groups and outside bodies that are not agreed by Council and are subject to change by the organising bodies.
- 3.4 As per previous years, as far as is practicable meetings have not been scheduled during school holidays as requested by Councillors. There is an inevitable need to hold some meetings during school holidays so that the diary does not become too congested and avoids clashes with meetings but these have been kept to a minimum.
- 3.5 County Council meetings have been scheduled to start at 14:00 in the diary. Democratic Services Committee considered the timing of meetings at its meeting on the 7th January 2019 following a survey of all councillors. The committee considered the current arrangements to be the preference of the majority of councillors for this term and agreed to review the timing again towards the end of the term highlighting to potential candidates standing at the next election that timing of council meetings are not fixed and should not pose as a barrier to people standing for election.
- 3.6 Paper copies of diaries will be available to all members at the AGM in May 2019. Printing of the diaries will be held as late as possible to incorporate as many meetings of outside bodies as possible.

4. REASONS:

The Council calendar needs to be approved annually to ensure appropriate governance arrangements are in place for the year and enables Members and officers to forward plan effectively.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None as a direct result of this report.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

There are no sustainable development or equality impacts arising from this report.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTEES:

Democratic Services Committee – Request that meetings are held in accordance with the approved diary throughout the year so that ‘special’ meetings held at short notice are kept to a minimum. Following a review of the timing of meetings considered the current arrangements to be most appropriate for this Council term.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

10. AUTHOR:

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager

CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644212

E-mail: johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

COUNCIL DIARY 2019-2020

MAY, 2019				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm Cabinet	2 2.00 pm Audit Committee	3
6 Bank Holiday	7 2.00 pm Planning Committee	8 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	9 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	10
13 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	14 5.00 pm AGM, County Council	15 1.00 pm North Monmouthshire Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	16 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	17
20 2.00 pm Democratic Services Committee	21 10.00 am Children and Young People Select Committee	22 10.00 am Monmouthshire Housing Board, Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA) 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	23	24
27 School Holiday Start Bank Holiday	28	29 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	30	31 School Holiday End

JUNE, 2019				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 9.00 am Planning Site Visit	4 2.00 pm Planning Committee	5 2.00 pm Cabinet	6 10.00 am Strong Communities Select Committee	7
10 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	11 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee	12 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	13 2.00 pm Audit Committee	14
17 10.00 am Standards Committee	18 10.00 am Adults Select Committee	19 10.00 am Central Mon Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	20 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	21
24 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group	25	26 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	27 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	28 10.00 am Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

JULY, 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 9.00 am Planning Site Visit 2.00 pm Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee	2 2.00 pm Planning Committee	3 2.00 pm Cabinet	4	5
8 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	9 10.00 am Children and Young People Select Committee	10 10.00 am Severnside Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	11 10.00 am Strong Communities Select Committee	12
15 2.00 pm Democratic Services Committee	16 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee	17 10.00 am Lower Wye Area Committee 10.00 am Monmouthshire Housing Board, Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA) 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	18 2.00 pm Audit Committee	19 School Holiday Start
22 11.00 am Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust	23 10.00 am Adults Select Committee	24 1.00 pm North Monmouthshire Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	25 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	26
29	30	31 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm Cabinet		

SEPTEMBER, 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 9.00 am Planning Site Visit	3 2.00 pm Planning Committee	4 2.00 pm Cabinet	5 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	6
9 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting 2.00 pm Democratic Services Committee	10 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee	11 10.00 am Strategic Transport Group 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	12 2.00 pm Audit Committee	13
16	17 10.00 am Children and Young People Select Committee	18 10.00 am Central Mon Area Committee 2.00 pm Monmouthshire Housing Board/AGM, Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA) 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	19 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	20
23 10.00 am Standards Committee	24 10.00 am Adults Select Committee	25 1.00 pm North Monmouthshire Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	26 10.00 am Strong Communities Select Committee	27
30 9.00 am Planning Site Visit				

OCTOBER, 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 2.00 pm Planning Committee	2 2.00 pm Cabinet	3	4
7 11.00 am Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust	8	9 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	10 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	11
14 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	15 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee	16 10.00 am Lower Wye Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	17 2.00 pm Audit Committee	18
21 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group	22 10.00 am Adults Select Committee	23 10.00 am Severnside Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	24 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	25
28 School Holiday Start	29	30 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	31	

NOVEMBER, 2019				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 School Holiday End
4 9.00 am Planning Site Visit 2.00 pm Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee	5 2.00 pm Planning Committee	6 2.00 pm Cabinet	7 10.00 am Strong Communities Select Committee	8
11 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	12 10.00 am Children and Young People Select Committee	13 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	14 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	15
18 2.00 pm Democratic Services Committee	19	20 10.00 am Monmouthshire Housing Board, Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA) 1.00 pm North Monmouthshire Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	21	22
25	26 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee	27 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	28 2.00 pm Audit Committee	29

DECEMBER, 2019				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 9.00 am Planning Site Visit	3 2.00 pm Planning Committee	4	5 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	6
9 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	10 10.00 am Adults Select Committee	11 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm BUDGET, Cabinet	12 10.00 am Strong Communities Select Committee	13
16 10.00 am Standards Committee	17 10.00 am Children and Young People Select Committee	18 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	19 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	20 School Holiday Start
23	24	25 Bank Holiday	26 Bank Holiday	27 Bank Holiday
30	31			

JANUARY, 2020				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Bank Holiday	2	3 School Holiday End
6 9.00 am Planning Site Visit	7 2.00 pm Planning Committee	8 2.00 pm Cabinet	9 2.00 pm Audit Committee	10
13 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	14 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee	15 10.00 am Central Mon Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	16 10.00 am Strong Communities Select Committee	17
20 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group	21 10.00 am Adults Select Committee	22 10.00 am Lower Wye Area Committee 1.00 pm North Monmouthshire Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	23 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	24
27 11.00 am Monmouthshire Farm School Endowment Trust	28 10.00 am Children and Young People Select Committee	29 10.00 am Severnside Area Committee 10.00 am Provisional Monmouthshire Housing Board, Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA) 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	30 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	31

FEBRUARY, 2020				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 9.00 am Planning Site Visit	4 2.00 pm Planning Committee	5 10.00 am Strategic Transport Group	6	7
10 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting 2.00 pm Democratic Services Committee	11	12 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm Cabinet 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	13 2.00 pm Audit Committee	14
17 School Holiday Start	18	19 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	20	21 School Holiday End
24	25 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee	26 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	27 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	28

MARCH, 2020				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 9.00 am Planning Site Visit	3 2.00 pm Planning Committee	4 2.00 pm Cabinet	5 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	6
9 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting 2.00 pm Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee	10 10.00 am Adults Select Committee	11 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	12 10.00 am Strong Communities Select Committee	13
16 10.00 am Standards Committee	17 10.00 am Children and Young People Select Committee	18 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	19 2.00 pm Audit Committee	20
23	24	25 10.00 am Provisional Monmouthshire Housing Board, Monmouthshire Housing Association (MHA) 1.00 pm North Monmouthshire Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	26 10.00 am Economy and Development Select Committee	27
30 2.00 pm Democratic Services Committee	31 10.00 am Licensing and Regulatory Committee			

APRIL, 2020				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 2.00 pm Cabinet	2 12.30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2.00 pm County Council	3
6 School Holiday Start 9.00 am Planning Site Visit 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	7 2.00 pm Planning Committee	8 10.00 am Central Mon Area Committee 10.00 am Lower Wye Area Committee 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	9	10 Bank Holiday
13 Bank Holiday	14 Bank Holiday	15 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	16	17 School Holiday End
20 10.00 am Joint Advisory Group	21 10.00 am Adults Select Committee	22 10.00 am Severnside Area Committee 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting 5.00 pm Individual Cabinet Member Decisions	23 10.00 am Strong Communities Select Committee	24
27	28 10.00 am Children and Young People Select Committee	29 10.00 am Strategic Transport Group 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	30	

15399 17

MAY, 2020				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 Bank Holiday	5 2.00 pm Planning Committee	6 2.00 pm Cabinet	7	8
11 10.00 am Conservative Group Meeting	12 5:00 pm AGM, County Council	13 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	14 12:30 pm Welsh Church Fund 2:00 pm County Council	15
18	19	20 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	21	22
25 Bank Holiday	26	27 2.00 pm Planning - Delegated Panel Meeting	28	29



MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT:	APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES – COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
MEETING:	Council
DATE:	17th January 2019
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. **PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 To appoint a representative to serve on the Community Health Council due to the resignation of Councillor K. Williams.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That the Council appoint a member to represent the Council on the Community Health Council.

3. **REASONS:**

- 3.1 Council agreed its representatives to outside bodies at its meeting on the 10th May 2018. In order to continue ensuring the council is represented on the Community Health Council an appointment is needed to fill the current vacancy.

4. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 4.1 In most cases members will be able to claim travel allowances from the County Council. In some cases these expenses are payable by the appropriate outside body.

5. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

CHC Calendar of Meetings 2018-19
CHC code of conduct for members

6. **AUTHOR:** John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager

CONTACT DETAILS:

Telephone: 01633 644212

Email: johnpearson@monmouthshire.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

CALENDAR OF CHC MEETINGS APRIL 2018 TO APRIL 2019 Version 3

MEETING	DAY	DATE (2018)	TIME
Council/AGM - All day event	Friday	13 April	09.30-16.00
Planning	Tuesday	10 April	10.30
Visiting & Public Engagement	Wednesday	18 April	10.30
Executive (Joint with ABUHB)	Thursday	26 April	10.30
Special Council Meeting	Wednesday	9 May	17.30
Scrutiny	Thursday	3 May	10.30
Executive	Thursday	31 May	10.30
Planning	Tuesday	12 June	10.30
Visiting & Public Engagement	Wednesday	20 June	10.30
Executive	Thursday	28 June	10.30
Council (Joint with ABUHB)	Wednesday	11 July	17.30
Scrutiny	Thursday	5 July	10.30
Executive	Thursday	26 July	10.30
Planning	Tuesday	14 August	10.30
Visiting & Public Engagement	Wednesday	22 August	10.30
Executive	Thursday	30 August	10.30
Scrutiny	Thursday	6 September	10.30
Performance & Governance	Wednesday	12 September	10.30
Executive	Thursday	27 September	10.30

MEETING	DAY	DATE (2018)	TIME
Council	Wednesday	3 October	17.30
Planning	Tuesday	9 October	10.30
Visiting & Public Engagement	Wednesday	17 October	10.30
Executive (Joint with ABUHB)	Thursday	25 October	10.30
Scrutiny	Thursday	8 November	10.30
Executive	Thursday	29 November	10.30
Planning	Tuesday	11 December	10.30
Visiting & Public Engagement	Wednesday	19 December	10.30
MEETING	DAY	DATE (2019)	TIME
Council	Wednesday	2 January	17.30
Scrutiny	Thursday	10 January	10.30
Executive	Thursday	31 January	10.30
Planning	Tuesday	12 February	10.30
Visiting & Public Engagement	Wednesday	20 February	10.30
Executive	Thursday	28 February	10.30
Scrutiny	Thursday	7 March	10.30
Performance & Governance	Wednesday	13 March	10.30
Executive	Thursday	28 March	10.30
Council/AGM - All day event	Wednesday	3 April	09.30-16.00

- **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MEETING TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR
COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE GENERAL
WELSH GOVERNMENT**

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Community Health Council members are committed to local NHS services and give significant personal time to this. Individual members play an important role in securing the effectiveness of their CHC. The guidance that follows aims to ensure that CHC members are aware of the expectations and responsibilities placed on them and the standards to which they should adhere as they take part in this important and valued aspect of public life.

The Code applies to all CHC members whether they are appointed by the Minister for Health and Social Services, by local authorities, or by the voluntary sector. It also applies to co-opted members of CHCs.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Community Health Councils (CHCs) are statutory bodies independent of local health services, which have a duty to represent the interests of the public in the health service. They are made up of members who give their time without pay. They monitor the functions of the health service in their districts with the aim of ensuring that steps are taken to identify the health needs of the community they serve.
2. The CHC's effectiveness depends in part on the public's perception of their reputation and standing. In particular CHCs are likely to be more effective if they have a reputation for speaking with authority on the basis of their direct experience and knowledge of the views and opinions of patients and the local community.
3. It is important that, before their appointment, potential CHC members understand what will be expected of them when they undertake this important public role. Therefore, prior to proposing, nominating or supporting any potential CHC member, the appointing body (Local Authority, Voluntary Organisation or the Minister for Health & Social Services) should make this Code of Conduct available to them, together with broader information about the expectations and responsibilities of CHC membership. Once elected or appointed CHC members should act in accordance with this Code and the expectations, responsibilities and standards described in related information provided by the establishing body, the appointing body or the CHC itself.
4. Before appointment, all new CHC members should sign a declaration stating that they will act in accordance with this Code. Existing members are also expected to adhere to the Code. Failure to abide by the Code will be treated seriously by the establishing body acting on behalf of the Minister for Health & Social Services and could, in certain circumstances, result in termination of membership.

VALUES THAT UNDERPIN THE WORK OF CHCs

5. Values that underpin the work of CHCs include:
 - i. *Accountability*. Everything done by the CHC should be able to stand the test of scrutiny by the public, the Assembly and the courts.
 - ii. *Integrity*. This should be the hallmark of all personal contact between CHC members and individual members of the public in order to provide confidentiality and anonymity where appropriate and in the use of all information acquired in the course of CHC duties and discussions.
 - iii. *Openness*. There should always be sufficient openness of CHC activities to promote the confidence of the public, patients, health organisations and the Assembly.

LIABILITY OF CHC MEMBERS

6. The following indemnity is given to CHC members:

“An individual CHC member who has acted honestly and in good faith will not have to meet out of his or her own personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in execution of purported execution of his or her CHC functions, save where the person has acted recklessly”
7. CHCs need to be able to demonstrate that they are operating effectively and in a professional manner in discharging their statutory responsibilities. They should have:
 - i. Clear rules of procedure (e.g. standing orders);
 - ii. Clear arrangements for handling financial matters;
 - iii. Clear statements about equal opportunities policy;
 - iv. Clear arrangements for disclosing potential conflicts of interest and recording them; and
 - v. Clear procedures for the handling of complaints about the CHC, its staff, or individual members.
8. It is the particular responsibility of the Chief Officer and the Chairman of the CHC to ensure that such systems are put in place and business conducted accordingly. However, all members have a responsibility to contribute to the development of such procedures and to respect them when they are in place. Once nominated or elected to the CHC they should abide by those procedures, actions or decisions that are agreed by the CHC corporately even if this conflicts with their personal view.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

9. CHC members should conduct themselves in a manner, which maintains the integrity of the CHC and its standing in the community, the NHS and other

bodies with which they communicate. Members are expected to conduct themselves with courtesy and consideration for others, whilst retaining the ability to be constructively critical where this is appropriate. Members should normally only act as a representative of the CHC, whether in a public forum or in private or informal discussion, with the prior knowledge and approval of the CHC Chairman and/or Chief Officer. Members should not use their CHC status to gain media or other attention to further their personal, organisational, commercial or party political interests. The CHC (Access to Information) Act 1988 which has been amended by the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 should be observed. Members should also familiarise themselves with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

RELATIONSHIPS IN PUBLIC LIFE

10. CHC members will come into contact with members of the public in their daily lives and should of course take the opportunity to publicise the work of the CHC. However, because of their position on the CHC, members may on occasion be asked for specific advice e.g. on medical matters or potential complaints about the health service. To protect the reputation of the CHC and to ensure that neither the CHC nor the individual member run the risk of legal liability for giving inaccurate information, CHC members should not personally take on patient's queries or complaints, but refer them to a CHC officer or complaints advocate.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

11. CHC members have a responsibility to respect and promote the corporate or collective decision of the CHC, even though this may conflict with their personal view. Training on Corporate Governance will be given as part of the induction process for CHC members.
12. CHC members are of course, ultimately free to comment as they wish as individuals. However, if they decide to do so they should make it clear that they are expressing their personal view and not the CHC's view. This applies particularly if the CHC has yet to decide on an issue or has decided in a way with which they personally disagree.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

13. The Chief Officer has responsibility for advising members on financial issues, ensuring compliance with relevant financial procedures and for the overall management of the CHC budget. However, members have a responsibility to consider the financial opportunities and constraints when they agree on the CHCs priorities and activities.
14. Members should obtain authorisation from the Chief Officer before incurring expenses on CHC business and be able to account for them. Unauthorised expenditure may be challenged by health service auditors and in extreme cases can damage public respect for the CHC and can leave the individual member open to legal proceedings.

IMPARTIALITY

15. Members are nominated or elected to the CHC to represent the interests of the whole of the population covered by the CHC. They should actively seek to make contact with minority and disadvantaged groups in order to be able to represent all sections of the community regardless of their own interests or preferences. However, they should always aim to act impartially and not be influenced by personal, social, political, and professional or business relationships, and should declare a potential conflict of interest where they may have one. They should not pursue causes or problems of particular individuals, groups or nominating bodies to the exclusion of their wider responsibilities. Neither should members seek preferential treatment for themselves, their families or friends, nor act in a way that could give the impression that they are doing so.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

16. It is important that potential members consider whether there is or will be the possibility of a relevant and material conflict of interest arising if they join the CHC, e.g. a position of authority in a voluntary or other body which may be providing services under contract to the health service, or other pecuniary interest. The criterion to be considered is: would others consider that a direct or indirect interest exists. If this is a possibility they should discuss the issue with the body through whom their membership will be arranged and if necessary seek advice from the Chief Officer of the relevant CHC prior to joining.
17. If a new member has a conflict of interest, or the possibility of one exists or becomes apparent during the term of office this should be declared and recorded immediately it is identified. The onus to declare an interest lies with the member. Members could be challenged for not disclosing an interest if one came to light. Each CHC should hold a register for this purpose, open to public inspection on request. If a conflict or interest arises during the course of CHC business, the member should declare the interest immediately. The CHC will then need to consider in each individual case, in light of the degree of conflict, if it is appropriate or not for the individual member to take part in the relevant parts of the discussion. Members having any concerns about actual or potential conflicts of interest should discuss them with the CHC Chairman, advised by the Chief Officer.

CONFIDENTIALITY

18. An essential part of the CHC's monitoring role involves determination of health service users' satisfaction with the quality of care and treatment received. However for the execution of this function members do not require information about individual patient's identity, illness, condition, or nature of treatment and should not seek it. If patients willingly disclose such information in the course of discussions, members should receive this in the strictest confidence.
19. Under the NHS (Wales) Act 2006, the CHC has certain responsibilities with which members should comply. The principles underlying the Act is that

meetings of CHCs, joint committees and committees should, in general, be open to the public including the press. Equally, CHCs should abide by the “Code of Practice on Openness in the NHS”, which sets out the principles for responding to requests for information and those circumstances in which it may be withheld. CHCs should also abide by the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

20. CHCs may from time to time receive information that is not covered by the NHS Code of Openness (e.g. preliminary working documents from health service bodies produced at the stage of formulating policy, prior to formal consultation and decision making). CHCs should have an agreed procedure with any health bodies, which might make information available in confidence. If the CHC has agreed to receive such information in confidence members should respect this confidence and not disclose the information to unauthorised persons or bodies without consent of the body, which provides the information. In certain circumstances, however, the duty to maintain confidence could be overridden, for example by statutory requirement, common law or where the public interest favours disclosure. In cases of doubt CHCs should seek legal advice as to the confidentiality of the information. Members should not report information of a confidential nature to their appointing bodies.
21. Any member, who disagrees with a proposal being presented to the CHC in confidence by a health body, should raise this with the CHC including the Chairman and Chief Officer of the CHC, who may agree to take up the issue with the relevant health body. The CHC should have an agreed procedure with the health body for dealing with such situations and members should comply with it.

CASUAL GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

22. Members should be very careful about accepting any offer of a gift or hospitality made to them because of their CHC membership. Articles of low intrinsic value, such as diaries or calendars, modest and reasonable hospitality, (e.g. a working lunch) or small tokens of gratitude may be accepted, but anything of greater value or significance should be politely but firmly declined. If in any doubt members should consult their Chief Officer prior to accepting any gift. The CHC should consider establishing a hospitality register.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

23. Members’ behaviour should accord with the spirit and the detail of the CHC’s statement of equal opportunities policy. In particular, the Chairman and Chief Officer should make it clear that racist, sexist, homophobic and other discriminatory remarks and behaviour will not be tolerated. The CHCs agenda and work programme should reflect its equal opportunities policy.

DEALING WITH THE MEDIA

24. Every CHC should have written guidelines for dealing with the media, e.g. some CHCs prefer direct comments to the media to come from either the CHC Chairman or the Chief Officer. Members should be familiar with and abide by their CHCs policy and procedures for handling enquiries from the press.
25. When speaking as a CHC member, whether to the press, in a public forum or in a private or informal discussion, members should ensure that they reflect the current policies or view of the CHC. They should do so only with the prior knowledge and approval of the CHC Chairman and/or Chief Officer but when this is not practicable they should report their action to the Chairman or Chief Officer as soon as possible.
26. Members should make sure that the comments are well considered, sensible, well informed, in good faith, in the public interest and without malice, and that they enhance the reputation and status of the CHC.

STAFF AND MEMBER DISAGREEMENTS

27. Disputes between CHC staff and members, which cannot be resolved informally, should be dealt with under the CHC complaints procedure.

INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST CHC MEMBERS

28. Any complaint against a CHC member, including failure to abide by the code, should initially be investigated in accordance with the CHCs complaints procedures.

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

29. Termination of membership which can be brought about in the following ways;
 - i) through resignation
 - ii) failure to attend a meeting or committee of the Council for 3 months (unless the absence was due to reasonable cause)
 - iii) if the Minister for Health & Social Services (having consulted the Council and, where appropriate, the relevant appointing body) is of the opinion that it is not in the interest of the health service for the person to continue as a member
 - iv) if the member is no longer eligible to continue because they fall within one of the disqualification criteria set out in the Regulations.
30. Termination of membership under points ii and iii above are extreme measures which will be taken rarely. The Welsh Government will expect CHCs to resolve membership matters locally as far as possible before steps are taken to refer matters to the Welsh Government.



Subject: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2019/20

Meeting: Council

Date: 17th January 2019

Divisions/Wards Affected: All

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- present arrangements for the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to approve it for 2019/20
- affirm that, in the absence of any revisions or amendments, annual uprating amendments will be carried out each year without a requirement to adopt the whole Council Tax Reduction Scheme

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 To note the making of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") 2013 by the Welsh Government on 26 November 2013.

2.2 To adopt the provisions within the Regulations above ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") and any 'annual uprating regulations' in respect of its Scheme for the financial year 2019/20 including the discretionary elements previously approved as the Council's local scheme from 1st April 2019.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 On 18th January 2018 Council adopted the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2018/19, in accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013.

3.2 The Regulations approved by the Assembly are available as follows:

The Default Scheme

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3035/contents/made>

The Prescribed Scheme

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3029/contents/made>

The National Assembly approved the Amendment Regulations on 8th January 2019 incorporating the uprated benefits from April 2019.

<http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/sub-ld11899/sub-ld11899-e.pdf>

- 3.3 A failure to adopt a 'local' scheme by 31 January 2019 will result in the Default Scheme being imposed on the Council.
- 3.4 The Welsh Government's regulations for 2019/20 do not contain any significant changes for recipients of Council Tax reduction. Claimants can receive a reduction up to 100% of their Council Tax bill dependent upon their income and household circumstances.
- 3.5 Annual Uprating regulations to increase benefits and personal allowances from April 2019 within the Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been considered by a Plenary session of the Senedd of the National Assembly for Wales on 8th January 2019.

4. Background

- 4.1 It was reported to Council on 28th January 2013 that the Welfare Reform Act 2013 included provisions to abolish Council Tax Benefit on 31 March 2013. From 1 April 2013, the responsibility for arranging support towards paying Council Tax and the associated funding transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to local authorities in England, and to the Scottish and Welsh Governments. The UK Government's policy intention was to reduce expenditure on Council Tax and therefore to implement a 10 per cent funding cut.
- 4.2 The report to Council on 28th January 2013 referred to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations 2012 and the amending regulations 2013. Those regulations were for implementation during the 2013/14 financial year only and Council resolved to adopt a new scheme for subsequent years in accordance with new regulations approved by the Welsh Government.
- 4.3 The regulations for Council Tax Reduction include provision for support up to 100% of council tax. As noted when presenting this issue in January, the regulations control the implementation of reduction schemes across the whole of Wales and are designed to ensure that each local authority consistently provides support for Welsh taxpayers.

5. The Reduction Scheme and discretionary areas

- 5.1 Although a national scheme has been approved, within the Prescribed Requirements Regulations there is limited discretion given to the Council to apply additional discretionary elements that are more generous than the national scheme and which provide for additional administrative flexibility. Council approved the discretionary areas to be applied (listed in 5.2) following public consultation. It is not proposed to change them in any way therefore no further consultation is required at this stage.
- 5.2 It is recommended to adopt the Scheme in the Prescribed Requirement Regulations (as per paragraph 3.3 the regulations can be accessed via the link: - <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs.htm?act=dis&id=251458&ds=12/2013>) and to exercise the previously approved discretions as follows:
- The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously been receiving a council tax reduction that is to end as a result of their return to work - it is not recommended to increase the standard extended reduction period;
 - Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions (including Armed Forces Independent Payments and Guaranteed Income Payment) which is to be disregarded when calculating income of the claimant - it is recommended to disregard the whole amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions;

- The ability to backdate the application of council tax reduction with regard to late claims prior to the new standard period of three months before the claim - it is not recommended to increase the backdated period;
- To provide above the minimum level of information to customers in order to ensure they are appropriately notified of their award in accordance with legislation - it is recommended that we maintain the current standard provision.

Council approved these discretions on 18th January 2018.

- 5.3 There are no additional monies available from the Welsh Government to fund discretionary elements but they are allowed for within our existing budget.
- 5.4 Changes to pensions, benefits and allowances normally take effect every April and sometimes during the year. The scheme has to reflect the changes to benefits in order to adjust calculations of entitlement. This is part of normal Benefits administration. We are advised that the Council need to approve the annual uprating regulations each year without formal adoption of the whole scheme.
- 5.5 As the uprating of benefits is not an area of discretion the Council is not able to consult on it.

6. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

This is not applicable as there are no changes to the scheme that is currently in place. The report has been presented as the uprating regulations are effectively amendments to the main scheme, for which we need to obtain overall approval.

7. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The scheme is largely prescribed by Welsh Government. Previous annual reports, from 2013 to 2018, have reaffirmed the minimal discretions that the Authority can apply. These discretions have been found to be resilient and fair.

8. REASONS

- 8.1 To agree the council tax reduction scheme for the forthcoming financial year as required by legislation.
- 8.2 To affirm the annual uprating prescribed by the Welsh Government

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 From 2014/15 onwards the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was funded through RSG. The Council therefore needs to manage the cost of the Scheme within its annual budget.
- 9.2 Any additional costs for growth in caseload and/or increases in entitlement attributable to a rise in the overall level of Council Tax have to be managed and are built into our budget proposals for 2019/20.
- 9.3 The provisional budget allocation, for 2019/20, of £6,495,512 is based on a 4.95% increase in Council Tax. The budget also reflects an anticipated ongoing fall in demand, which has released £110,000 savings to the Medium Term Financial Plan. Any subsequent changes in the council tax increase will be reflected in the final budget proposal report.

10. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

- 10.1 There are no implications for sustainable development.
- 10.2 The scheme to be applied for 2019/20 does not contain any significant changes from the scheme that is currently operational.
- 10.3 The Welsh Government has undertaken a detailed 'regulatory' impact assessment, which includes equality impact assessment, and we understand that the findings reported were in line with their expectations.
- 10.4 Our Sustainability Community Officer has confirmed that under these circumstances there is no requirement to complete a Future Generations Evaluation.

11. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team
Head of Finance
Head of Legal

12. Background Papers:

None

13. Authors:

Richard Davies – Head of Benefits (Monmouthshire)

Ruth Donovan – Assistant Head of Finance: Revenues, Systems and Exchequer

14. CONTACT DETAILS:

Email: richard.davies@torfaen.gov.uk

Tel: 01495 742358

Email: ruthdonovan@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644592

SUBJECT: Proposed acquisition of the former MOD railway line, Crick to Caerwent.

MEETING: Council

DATE: 17th January 2018

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

To seek approval to acquire the former MOD railway line between Crick and Caerwent to facilitate a cycle and walk way and to enable an easement to service the Crick Road LDP development site.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To agree to the acquisition of the former railway line as shown for identification purposes on the plan included at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 That the acquisition costs will be met from the sale proceeds of the Crick Road site.
- 2.3 That authority is delegated to the Head of Commercial and Integrated Landlord Services to negotiate the acquisition in accordance with the independent valuation dated 31st July 2018.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Council is committed to the promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle and the promotion of the County as a walking and cycling tourist destination. The former MOD railway line was identified by the Countryside Service as a potential route and they commissioned Sustrans to undertake studies to identify its suitability and the potential liabilities that would result.
- 3.2 The line extends from Pill Farm Industrial Estate for approximately 2.9 kilometres where it adjoins the A48 as shown for identification purposes in Appendix 2. The route crosses over six bridges, which form part of the holding and therefore are the responsibility of the landowner, with the exception of the bridge that crosses the M48, which is maintained by SEWTRA. The line varies in width and height and is overgrown in places as it ceased to be used by the MOD a number of years ago. The railway track and sleepers remain in part of the route and will be transferred insitu.
- 3.3 The Council is in the process of disposing of the Crick Road residential development site and is investigating developing a new care facility at the same location. The proposed developers, Melin Homes, have been working on the development constraints and the attenuation of surface water drainage. The preferred strategy is to discharge surface water into adjoining Council land, but this will require an easement to cross the MOD railway line. The acquisition of this land will therefore enable the

Council to convert the line into a publically accessible walking/ cycle route, whilst enabling us to mitigate the surface water drainage on the Crick Road development site.

4 OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefits	Risks	Comments
Do nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site does not become available for public access and is instead sold to a private landowner. We will need to agree an easement with a third party owner or seek an alternative mitigation method for the surface water 	This would be the status quo option, but does nothing to improve active travel and healthy lifestyles or consider our obligations of the Well being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA)
Acquire the former MOD railway line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will allow us to provide additional opportunities for walking and cycling and connect Portskewett with Caerwent. Enables us to enter into an easement with the developers of Crick Road and allows us to construct the new care home facility Supports the WBFGA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a cost implication to acquire and then manage the asset to ensure that it is suitable for the proposed use and fit for purpose. Residual liability for the bridges, which will need to be managed. The proposed route for the surface water is not suitable and an alternative provision will need to be made. 	This provides an opportunity to acquire a unique strip of land that will provide a safe route for cycling and walking. It will also enable the mitigation of the surface water, which is a concern for existing local residents and will be necessary for the residential development and the new care home. This is the preferred option

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

See Appendix 1

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 There has been a long held aspiration to improve the cycle and walking routes in this area utilising the former MOD railway line.
- 6.2 Melin have been undertaking a site survey to establish if it would be possible to connect to existing surface water infrastructure in adjoining Council land, however it would require a pipe to cross the railway route. Initial indications are that this would be feasible.
- 6.3 The Crick Road development will provide circa 274 homes as well as the proposed care facility the provision of a new walking and cycle route will benefit the new occupiers as well

as the existing community and make a positive contribution to our obligations under the Well Being of Future Generations Act.

- 6.4 An adjoining landowner has indicated that they would like to undertake re-alignments to the route around the periphery of their field to improve the usability of their land as the route currently dissects the holding. In the event that we progress with the purchase, we will undertake discussions of the landowner on the basis that any re-alignment needs to be undertaken at their expense and must not impact on the route and its users.
- 6.5 The MOD acquired the land in the 1930's, we have obtained legal advice that Critchel Down rules will not apply given the change in the nature of the use of the land (physical engineering works and the use).

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The independent valuation report has indicated a range of between a £1 and £100,000 to acquire the railway line, dependent on whether the surface water drainage easement is required. Discussions have been undertaken on this basis and it has been provisionally agreed that the sale will be on the basis of a £100,000. In the event that a connection for surface water is not required, it is proposed that the purchase price will be £1.
- 7.2 It is proposed that the cost of the acquisition will be funded from the sale of the Crick Road Residential site. It is anticipated that the first receipt will be banked by the end of the current financial year.
- 7.3 A funding strategy will need to be devised to undertake the removal of the remaining railway track, the creation of a safe surface and additional entry points, where appropriate.

8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

The proposal does not have any safeguarding or corporate parenting implications.

9. CONSULTEES:

SLT
Cabinet
Head of Legal Services
Head of Tourism, Leisure & Culture
Countryside Manager
S151 Monitoring Officer

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 Evaluation Criteria
Appendix 2 Site Plan

11. AUTHOR:

Debra Hill-Howells Head of Commercial and Integrated Landlord Services

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

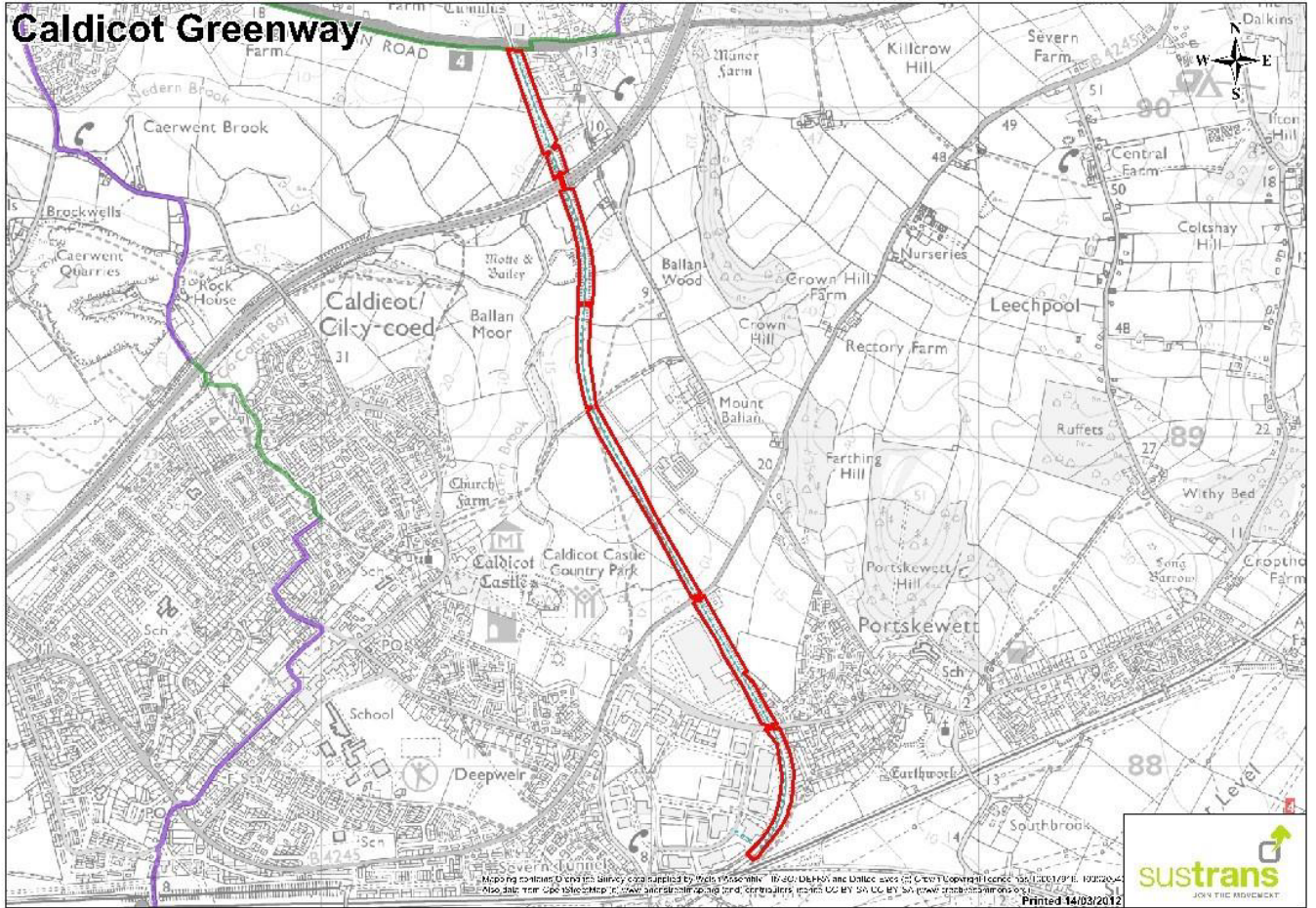
Tel: 01633 644281

E-mail: debrahill-howells@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Title of Report:	Proposed acquisition of MOD railway line
Date decision was made:	2nd January 2019
Report Author:	Debra Hill-Howells
What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council?	
The Council will acquire the proposed MOD railway line and develop a plan to bring the route into public use as a cycle and walk way.	
12 month appraisal	
What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented?	
The land will have been acquired; A development and funding strategy is in place. Crick road development site is commenced.	
12 month appraisal	
<i>Paint a picture of what has happened since the decision was implemented. Give an overview of how you fared against the criteria. What worked well, what didn't work well. The reasons why you might not have achieved the desired level of outcome. Detail the positive outcomes as a direct result of the decision. If something didn't work, why didn't it work and how has that effected implementation.</i>	
What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve?	
£100,000 acquisition price (max). Further costs to be clarified	
12 month appraisal	
<i>Give an overview of whether the decision was implemented within the budget set out in the report or whether the desired amount of savings was realised. If not, give a brief overview of the reasons why and what the actual costs/savings were.</i>	
Any other comments	

Appendix 2

Caldicot Greenway





Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Debra Hill-Howells Phone no: 01633 644281 E-mail: debrahill-howells@monmouthshire.go.uk	Proposal Name: Proposed acquisition of MOD railway line
	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal To acquire the former railway line to provide a cycle and walking route and facilitate surface water drainage for the Crick Road development site
Name of Service Commercial and Integrated Landlord Services	Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed 09.12.18

Page 41

NB. Key strategies and documents that may help you identify your contribution to the wellbeing goals and sustainable development principles include: Single Integrated Plan, Continuance Agreement, Improvement Plan, Local Development Plan, People Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Green Infrastructure SPG, Welsh Language Standards, etc

1. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.




Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales	The route is currently redundant and not available to the public. If we acquire the site it will enable active travel and also enable the discharge of surface	



Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	water from the Crick Road development site which will include the development of a care facility to be run by MCC and replace the Severn View provision	
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	We will be removing the existing railway tracks and mitigate the impact of the existing countryside and ecology. The surface water infrastructure will where possible make use of existing.	We will work with the Countryside service to mitigate any impacts of the proposals on the local environment and wildlife.
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	The route is approximately 2,9 kilometers in length and will provide a cycle and walking route from Old Pill Farm Industrial Units to the A48 to encourage leisure activities and active travel	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The route will be available for existing and new communities and provide a leisure facility that is not yet available. It will also improve the pedestrian access from Portskewett to Caldicot	There are members of the local community that have objected to the development of the Crick Road site, they have raised issues with existing surface water problems – the acquisition of this land may help mitigate these.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	This will enable active travel and protect the asset as a publically accessible route, improving its existing designation as a private asset.	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	This route will improve local leisure activity provision	
A more equal Wales		

DSSG 2024

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances		

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritized the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The acquisition of the asset will enable us to manage a short term need to deal with surface water mitigation on the Crick Road development, whilst providing an asset for public use in the long term</p>	
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The proposal involves working with the MOD and Melin Homes the preferred developer of the residential element of the Crick Road site.</p> <p>The work required to provide the cycle and walking route will be undertaken with local stakeholders</p>	
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Countryside team have previously been working with local stakeholders and Sustrans and it is expected that this will continue</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p data-bbox="152 496 291 523">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="344 256 501 555">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="546 256 1317 400">The acquisition of this route will enable us to provide a new walking and cycle route to promote active lifestyles. It will also enable us to deal with surface water issues that are prevalent on the existing Crick Road site</p>	
 <p data-bbox="152 839 291 866">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="344 600 517 858">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="546 600 1301 743">The proposal meets our aspiration to support communities to be healthy and active as well as removing one of the barriers to the development of the Crick Road site, which will create 274 homes as well as a care provision.</p>	

3. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below. For more detailed information on the protected characteristics, the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Language Standards that apply to Monmouthshire Council please follow this link: <http://hub/corporatedocs/Equalities/Forms/AllItems.aspx> or contact Alan Burkitt on 01633 644010 or alanburkitt@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Neutral	Neutral	

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Disability	We will ensure that where possible the route is accessible to all, albeit that this will be phased to enable the removal of the sleepers etc.	Neutral	
Gender reassignment	Neutral	Neutral	
Marriage or civil partnership	Neutral	Neutral	
Pregnancy or maternity	Neutral	Neutral	
Race	Neutral	Neutral	
Religion or Belief	Neutral	Neutral	
Sex	Neutral	Neutral	
Sexual Orientation	Neutral	Neutral	
Welsh Language	Ensure that any signage is compliant with the Welsh Language measure 2011	Neutral	

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on important responsibilities of Corporate Parenting and safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities? For more information please see the guidance

<http://hub/corporatedocs/Democratic%20Services/Safeguarding%20Guidance.docx> and for more on Monmouthshire's Corporate Parenting Strategy see <http://hub/corporatedocs/SitePages/Corporate%20Parenting%20Strategy.aspx>

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	Neutral	<i>Neutral</i>	
Corporate Parenting	Neutral	Neutral	

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

- Page 46
- Independent valuation report
 - Technical studies from Sustrans and other specialist advisors
 - Legal advice
 - Discussions with MOD and Melin Homes

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

Benefits

The creation of a new cycle and walking route from Old Pill Farm Industrial Estate to the A48
 Mitigation of surface water on the Crick Road development site

Negative Impacts

- Financial costs of acquisition and re-instatement works

- Long term liabilities of the route

7. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress

8. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	
--	--

Page 7

VERSION CONTROL: The Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable development wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
	Individual Cabinet Member Report	2 nd January 2019	

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 9

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 20th December, 2018 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor P. Clarke (Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, M. Powell, V. Smith, D. Dovey, A. Easson, R. Edwards, D. Evans, P.A. Fox, R. Harris, J. Higginson, G. Howard, S. Howarth, D. Jones, P. Jones, S. Jones, S.B. Jones, P. Jordan, P. Murphy, F. Taylor, A. Watts, A. Webb, K. Williams, J.Becker, L.Brown, A.Davies, L.Dymock, M.Feakins, M.Groucutt, R.John, L.Jones, M.Lane, P.Pavia, J.Pratt, R.Roden and T.Thomas

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Matthew Phillips	Head of Law/ Monitoring Officer
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Frances Williams	Chief Officer, Enterprise
Julie Boothroyd	Chief Officer Social Care, Safeguarding and Health

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors D. Blakebrough, R.J.W. Greenland, L. Guppy, B. Strong, J.Treharne and S. Woodhouse

2. Public Open Forum

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Jones-Griffiths who was in attendance to speak in support of Councillor Batrouni's motion regarding SENCOM. She spoke of her four month old daughter who is diagnosed as having bilateral sensory hearing loss of a severe and significant nature, meaning she is severely and profoundly deaf and will never hear unaided. Mrs Jones-Griffiths explained the fantastic support and benefits received through SENCOM. Concerns were that the restructure of SENCOM in Newport would have a knock-on effect Countywide. Members were urged to support the motion, as something that has to be fought.

The Chairman moved the motion to the next item for discussion.

4.1. From County Councillor D. Batrouni

Councillor Batrouni had visited the centre and witnessed the incredible care and assistance provided. Concerns were that the regional service remains resilient for children of Monmouthshire.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Groucutt.

Councillor F. Taylor declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. Councillor Taylor questioned if colleagues had seen Impact or Future Generations Assessments, and asked that officers procure and circulate the information.

Members were unanimous with their support and following a recorded vote the motion was carried.

3. Chairman's announcement and receipt of petitions

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 20th December, 2018 at 2.00 pm

We noted the Chairman's report.

Councillor Rev. M. Lane presented a petition on behalf of the residents of Coed Y Brenin regarding traffic concerns along the Hereford Road.

Councillor Howarth requested that responses to petitions are reported back to Council.

4. Notices of Motion:

4.2. From County Councillor D. Batrouni

The motion was seconded by Councillor Williams.

The Cabinet Member for Finance sympathised with the problem but expressed problems with the mechanics of the motion, noting the difficulties in the practicalities. He could not support the motion as it stands.

The overall feeling amongst the Conservative Party was that this was a laudable motion, with good intentions, but further analysis was required.

Councillor K. Williams proposed an amendment to the motion to state:

That the Council starts the process of 'examining the possibility of' increasing council tax on second homes that have been vacant for over 6 months in the next financial year. Notes that it is estimated to raise over £200,000 per year and will have the added benefit of discouraging people from purchasing Monmouthshire properties as holiday homes that are only lived in for part of the year. As well as offsetting some of the budget deficit, the Labour group urges the Council to set aside £30,000 raised from this, on a per annum basis, to help fund young local carers with their tuition fees if they go to university. Any amount of the money unspent each year should go into a new social justice reserve in order to support the Council's social justice agenda.

The amendment was duly seconded and debate ensued.

Following discussion the amendment was withdrawn and votes were cast on the original motion. The motion was defeated.

4.3. From County Councillor T. Thomas

Motion withdrawn.

Councillor Thomas took the opportunity to highlight concerns of residents and bus users about the unofficial bus stop on Park Road. Highways have told bus companies to not use the bus stop but they continue to do so. He explained the ongoing issue around bus stops and routes in Abergavenny.

4.4. From County Councillor J. Watkins

Councillor Becker seconded the motion.

The motion was supported and the Cabinet Member agreed to write to Transport for Wales and hope for action.

The Chair requested that platform signage be mentioned in the correspondence.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 20th December, 2018 at 2.00 pm

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

5. Members' Questions:

5.1. From County Councillor J. Becker to County Councillor P. Murphy

The Cabinet Member responded that Interserve were appointed to undertake the construction of Caldicot and Monmouth Comprehensive Schools. Caldicot opened in September 2017 and with the exception of resolving minor defects Interserve have concluded this contract. Monmouth Comprehensive opened in September 2018 and outstanding works relate to the demolition of the old buildings and completion of defects. Council are already working on contingency plans that would result in MCC assuming responsibility for the demolition and resolution of any outstanding defects. The Council is holding retention funds on both projects which will enable us to step in with limited financial consequence.

6. Reports of the Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health:

6.1. Crick Road Care Home

The Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health presented a report providing an updated position in regards to the development of the new build care home that will replace Severn View Residential Home. The report details the case for change and presents the finalised care home designs that will sit on the Crick Road site in Portskewett.

The report set out the current options and seeks approval from Council members to move the project forward to implementation phase.

Concerns were raised that Adult Select Committee had strongly argued for a 48 bed unit and a request was made that this be kept in mind. The Integrated Service Manager explained that key criteria for capital funding from Welsh Government is deliverability, which at this stage is 32 beds. The ambition is 48 beds, but would require partnership work with third sector or ABUHB.

Upon being put to the vote, Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

That Council consider the options outlined below and that members approve the Crick Road Care Home scheme to go forward to implementation phase as detailed in Options 3 and in Appendix 1 (Case for Change).

That Council members endorse the proposals outlined in Appendix 1 (Case for Change) for inclusion in the 2019/20 capital programme, understanding that Members have subscribed to any additions to the programme meeting one of two conditions:

- **Either that the project replaces something already in the capital programme as a higher priority, or:**
- **That the business case is demonstrably self-funded**

Work is progressing on refining the costs and seeking a more up to date valuation for the Severn View site which may recast the anticipated net cost to zero. However, there remains a small imbalance and following consultation with finance colleagues the intention would be to make an additional request of full

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 20th December, 2018 at 2.00 pm

Council to utilise a maximum £300k corporate capital receipts from the anticipated available by end of 2018-19.

6.2. Gwent Homelessness Strategy

Council received a report presenting the proposed Gwent Regional Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022 and Action Plan, including the proposed Monmouthshire specific actions setting out the approach for tackling homelessness across Gwent. The report also includes a regional review of homeless services for Gwent, which informed the development of the strategy.

The housing company has not been dismissed and could be factored into the strategy.

The Leader of the Opposition questioned the innovativeness of the strategy, and asked what was new that would solve the problems faced across the County. The Housing and Communities Manager explained that in terms of innovation there is still a number of conversations to be had.

A member referred to rough sleepers located in Newport and was pleased to see the five authorities working together.

A Member reflected on personal experiences and highlighted the importance on prevention.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

To accept and adopt the draft Gwent Homelessness Strategy.

7. Report of the Chief Officer for Children and Young People

7.1. Establishment of a project team to support Monmouthshire's 21st Century Schools' Developments

Council received a report in order to seek agreement for the creation of a new team, funded through the Authority's 21st Century Schools' capital programme. The purpose of the team is to support the development of a Full Business Case (FBC) for the next tranches of capital investment in Monmouthshire County Council's 21st Century Schools' redevelopment programme. Beyond that initial substantive phase, the team will be responsible for all liaison and programme management of the build programme itself.

Questions were raised regarding the preparatory works for Chepstow School, and a firm commitment was requested that the school would remain as a comprehensive school in its existing form. It was stated that we need to make a clear statement of intent regarding the education at Chepstow School.

The Cabinet Member for Education gave a clear commitment to Chepstow School and stated that he had been clear that this is a 4 school renewal project of which is halfway complete.

The Leader added that financial restraints should be recognised and supported the next stage of the programme.

County Councillor R. Harris declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest as a governor at Deri View School.

County Councillor T. Thomas declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest as a governor at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 20th December, 2018 at 2.00 pm

The commitment regarding the two form Welsh entry stream in the new development was questioned. The Cabinet Member explained that the Welsh medium stream is a key part of the Welsh Education Strategic Plan, and consultation is due to take place. There is a clear commitment to provide parents with a choice to where their children are educated.

Upon being put to the vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

Approve the creation of the Project Team to ensure the completion of a robust and extensive FBC, undertake appropriate de-risking activity to ensure that the programme remains within the parameters of affordability and act as the client liaison side in the construction phase.

Approve that this team is funded by the capital programme in preparation for the commencement of construction of a new all-through school in Abergavenny. In the event that the FBC does not gain support of the Council or the Welsh Government these costs will have to be written off to a revenue account; if this is the case they should be met by the Capital Investment Reserve.

Approve the creation of a team to be made up of seconded officers from the local authority's existing establishment and agree that these posts should be back filled where appropriate and necessary

Note that the shape and purpose of this team will flex and change over time depending on the stage of the programme's development and that there may be future amendments in the future. In light of the potential requirement to change the shape of the team it is recommended that Council delegates responsibility for future amendments to the Cabinet Member for Education in consultation with the Chief Officer, Children and Young People.

8. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 25th October 2018

The minutes of the meeting of County Council held on 25th October 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.

I doing so we noted an amendment in declaration of interest. Should read Councillor Roger Harris, not Roger Hoggins.

9. To note the County Council Action List

Councillor Batrouni referred to a motion regarding the Housing Company and asked that a commitment to come back to Council be added to the Action List.

10. To note the following minutes:

10.1. Audit Committee 13th September 2018
Noted.

10.2. Democratic Services Committee 24th September 2018
Noted.

10.3. Public Service Board 18th July 2018
Noted.




MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 20th December, 2018 at 2.00 pm**

The meeting ended at 16:25pm

ACTION LIST
MEETING OF MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE OF MEETING	AGENDA/MINUTE ITEM	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	TO BE ACTIONED BY	PROGRESS
20 th December 2018	Action List	Cllr Batrouni requested that an update on the motion regarding the Housing Company Proposal to be brought to Council	Ian Bakewell	
20 th December 2018	Motion - SENCOM	Cllr Taylor referred the lack of Impact or FG assessment. Will McLean agreed to liaise with Newport colleagues to obtain documents	Will McLean	
20 th October 2018	Gambling Policy	Cllr Batrouni requested information on funding of the Gambling Commission	Dave Jones	Emailed response to Cllr Batrouni 26/10/18
20 th September 2018	Petition	Petition presented by Cllr Blakebrough regarding road safety in Llandogo. Passed to Roger Hoggins 20/9/18	Roger Hoggins	
27 th July 2018	Safeguarding	To circulate complete report to Members.	J. Rodgers.	
27 th July 2018	ADM	Chief Officer agreed that detail of the scrutiny arrangements of the governance structure be included in future correspondence.	P. Davies	Ongoing.

10 th May 2018	Actions	Deputy Chief Executive to pursue response from MHA regarding petition submitted by Councillor Howarth.	K. Beirne	
19 th April 2018	Chief Officer Annual Report	Chief Officer to provide written response to Cllr Blakebrough regarding statistics and policy around young people with dyslexia	Will McLean	Email response provided
6 th March 2018	Well Being Plan	To include an impact assessment sheet at the start of reports	Democratic Services Committee to discuss	Agenda item added to DS Committee on 23 rd April
18 th January 2018	Announcement re Carillion	Leader to write to the Minister to ask what safeguards are in place for the Brynmawr to Tredegar carriageway.	Cllr Fox	 180122 Ken Skates  Response from Ken AM - A465 Heads of 1 Skates.pdf
Page 56	Action List	To provide a briefing note on the detail of responsibilities of members on Outside Bodies.	Paul Matthews	Email to all members:  Guidance to councillors on outside
14 th December 2017	Minutes	Contact MHA to ensure Cllr Batrouni is added as a member of the board.	Nicola Perry	Members' Secretary have advised MHA of the update.
	Action List	Note the absence of action list and ensure this is followed up	Nicola Perry	Action List now available to all through the Hub. Actions list to be updated and forwarded to all involved. Officers able to update accordingly. Action List
	Safeguarding Evaluative Report	Chief Officer for CYP to provide a response regarding the outcomes of the Faithful & Gould asset survey of	Claire Marchant / Will McLean	CYP officers from the 21 st Century Schools team have been working with colleagues

		Chepstow School to Cllr Pavia		in property services and in Chepstow School. The initial and urgent work was to consider the safeguarding issue that was raised in the Faithful and Gould survey (2016). One aspect related to a fencing issue and the other was concerned with the linkage between the school and the leisure centre. Both the fence and the linkages have now been addressed.
Page 57	Update to Constitution	Clarity requested around the amount of notice required to remotely attend a meeting. To add 'working' days.	Rob Tranter	The constitution has been updated to include the proposed amendment
	Motion from Cllr Batrouni	To form a working group with Members to work with Cllr S. Jones on the issue of Period Poverty	Cllr Jones	Members emailed and invited to a meeting of the working group at 12:30m on January 10 th 2018.
9TH November 2017	Minutes of Democratic Services Committee	Written response to Councillor Howarth regarding the reasoning behind issuing Members with new IT equipment.	Paul Matthews	Email response provided to Cllr Howarth
	Motion from Cllr Groucutt	Minutes of PSB meetings to be brought to Council Meetings	Sharran Lloyd	Sharran/Dave to forward PSB minutes to DS. Will be added to agenda.

This page is intentionally left blank

Our Ref/Ein Cyf: RJ/
Your Ref/Eich cyf: DD0015
E-mail/E-bost: richardjohn@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel./Ffon: 01633 644020
Date/Dyddiad: 9th January 2019

Cllr Debbie Wilcox
Leader
Newport City Council
Civic Centre
Newport
NP20 4PR

Dear Debbie,

I write on behalf of every elected member of Monmouthshire County Council to express our continued frustration and disappointment at the decision of Newport City Council to withdraw from the Sensory and Communication Support Service (SenCom).

At our full council meeting on 20th December 2018 Members unanimously supported the following motion proposed by the Leader of the Opposition, Cllr. Dimitri Batrouni:

'This Council strongly disagrees with Newport City Council's decision to withdraw from the regional SenCom service and deeply regrets the level of uncertainty it has created around this essential support network. That Monmouthshire County Council remains firmly committed to this service and will work with all partners to reduce any uncertainty or fears held by staff and parents.'

A member of the public, whose newly born daughter is profoundly deaf and a SenCom user, spoke to Council and set the context for the debate. The first hand contribution from a service user made it very clear as to the exceptionally high standard of service that all SenCom users access. In particular, she stressed the importance of the service in supporting families in the very early years. There were impassioned contributions from members of all political groups. You can view the debate online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMIzKSt1pzg>

During the course of the debate, there was widespread concern about the impact of Newport's decision to withdraw from the shared service. In particular, Members were concerned as to the impact of the withdrawal on the resilience of service available within the remaining four authorities. Their concerns extended to ensuring that there was a consistency of service for families and that the critical long term relationships formed between teachers, support staff and users can be retained and protected.

Members respected the ability of any local authority to make a decision about its own service delivery but the decision to withdraw from a shared service of such longevity as SenCom as well as the relative short notice of the decision caused concern across the Chamber.

Members were particularly keen to understand the supporting processes that had led Newport to make this decision as part of Newport's budget development process. Members requested that Newport share its Equality Impact Assessment and Future Generations Wellbeing Assessment so they can understand what actions Newport was proposing to mitigate the risks its decision had created. This letter is a formal request for those documents and is a formal response to Newport City Council's budget consultation exercise.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope you can supply the above documents for me to share with colleagues in Monmouthshire.

*Yours sincerely,
Richard.*

**County Councillor Richard John
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Monmouthshire County Council**

cc. Cllr Gail Giles, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills